



TIR COED

**Six Monthly Progress Report**

October '04 to March '05

## **1. Introduction**

During the last six months, the Tir Coed team has achieved a number of key developments. Most importantly, we have finalised our Business Plan for the new financial year. The Plan will guide our work over the next twelve months and contains financial and output targets that we hope to achieve through our initiatives.

The Plan contains the three key themes that our work conforms to and as of April, our budget and output achievement will be measured against these 3 strands. These are:

- Promoting Rural Regeneration
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing
- Alleviating Social Exclusion and Deprivation

The three strands are closely linked, each affecting the other and often projects can be categorised under all three. Our work still focuses on the rural areas of Wales, with priority given to deprived communities and where specific needs are identified.

In terms of projects and initiatives, in the past six months we have continued to support the development of skills in rural parts of Wales. For instance, we have trained 34 people in the last six months, with 24 gaining recognised qualifications as a result. Courses have ranged from the ever-popular 5-day Basic Chainsaw course to First Aid for Foresters.

Our key events during the last six months have been two demonstrations aimed at small woodland owners, farmers and small-scale forestry contractors. Our most successful event, at Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, was a partnership project led by Tir Coed and involved the Forestry Commission, the Forestry Contracting Association, Coed Cymru and the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales. Over 70 people attended the event and were able to watch six low impact timber extraction methods being demonstrated and seek professional advice on managing their own woodlands.

To increase the impact of Tir Coed's support in rural areas of Wales, we are increasingly encouraging organisations to apply to our small grant scheme. This often enables organisations to deliver projects that may not have happened without our assistance. In 2004/05 we awarded eight grants via this method ranging from a few hundred pounds to a maximum of £2,000. The application and monitoring process has been revised in recent months so that it is both a flexible and accessible fund.

As it continues to be developed, this method will enable us to cover a greater geographical area and assist more communities in the long run.

Our key projects over the last six months have focused on the three themes above. Below you will find a summary of our main activities during this period, and an indication of the outputs these activities have created. The project summaries are categorised according to the three themes of our strategy.

## 2. Key Activities

### Promoting Rural Regeneration

#### 2.1 Training

The quiet winter period provides an excellent opportunity to use woodlands and hedgerows for training purposes. As a result, a number of training courses have taken place in the last six months. These have included:

- Hedge laying x 2
- Basic Chainsaw (leading to NPTC assessment) x 2
- First Aid x 2

Two hedge laying courses were organised, one in north Ceredigion and one in north Pembrokeshire. The numbers that took part and the total cost to Tir Coed are detailed below:

<b>Hedge laying Course - 13-14th November (Ceredigion)</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. training sessions/courses	1	£147.50 – course delivered in partnership with Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales
No. people receiving training	5	
<i>Outcomes: increased awareness of conservation techniques, increased skills and potential for income generation.</i>		
<b>Introduction to Hedge laying - 26-27<sup>th</sup> February (Pembrokeshire)</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. training sessions/courses	1	£230.00
No. people receiving training	5	
<i>Outcomes: increased awareness of conservation techniques, increased skills and potential for income generation. Course held on Tir Gofal farm &amp; each candidate completed about 10m of hedge.</i>		

Two First Aid courses (aimed at the forestry sector) were held in the last six months. The first was held at Denmark Farm, Betws Bledrws (22<sup>nd</sup> November) and the second at Clynyfw Countryside Centre in north Pembrokeshire (12<sup>th</sup> January).

<b>First Aid Courses</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. training sessions/courses	2	£784.66 for two courses
No. people receiving training	16	
No. women assisted/given support	6	
No. unemployed given support	2	
No. trainees obtaining qualification	16	
No self employed assisted	11	
<i>Outcomes: positive feedback given by participants who found the course useful. Increased health and safety awareness in woodland-related operations.</i>		

There seems to be a constant demand for courses in Basic Chainsaw skills and as a result we organised two subsidised 5-day courses in two counties. We already have a waiting list for next winter!

<b>Basic Chainsaw Training (North Ceredigion) - 13-17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. training sessions/courses	1	Total cost to Tir Coed = £984.38
No. people receiving training	4	
No. unemployed given support	1	
No. self-employed assisted	3	
<b>Basic Chainsaw Training (Pembrokeshire) 21-25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. training sessions/courses	1	Total cost to Tir Coed = £1215
No. people receiving training	4	
No. self-employed assisted	4	
<i>Outcomes: Increased skills through subsidised training, working towards recognised qualification (NPTC), support for self-employed contractors and those wishing to enter the forestry industry.</i>		

After the courses, chainsaw assessments were held on 13-14<sup>th</sup> January (Ceredigion) and 9-10<sup>th</sup> March (Pembrokeshire). Seven out of the eight candidates were successful in passing the units.

<b>Basic Chainsaw Assessments (Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire)</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No of unemployed given support	1	Total cost to Tir Coed = £999.25
No of women assisted	3	
No trainees receiving qualification	7	
No self-employed assisted	7	

## 2.2 Demonstrations

Over the past six months two woodland demonstrations have been held. The first was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October at Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire. The event aimed to demonstrate low impact methods of extracting timber and included quad extraction, horse logging, using a skidder, forwarder and three-point linkage winch and methods of moving timber down a slope using a log chute. The event took place at Castle Woods, owned by the Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales and is typical of a number of small woodland sites in rural Wales.

The event was an excellent example of partnership working and also good publicity for Tir Coed, having both local and national press coverage.

<b>Timber Extraction demo - 20th October</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. of attendees	74	<b>Total cost to Tir Coed = £1,327.36</b>
No. contractors supported	7	
No. demonstrations	6	
No. woodland sites visited	1	
<i>Outcomes: majority of respondents rated organisation, content and information as 'excellent' or 'very good' (36 questionnaires were completed). Event aimed at small woodland owners and farmers to encourage diversification and different woodland management techniques. Potential for increased use of low impact techniques.</i>		

A second demonstration 'Working Your Woods' was held on 16<sup>th</sup> March on a private farm at Llanwrin near Machynlleth. The second event concentrated more on adding value to timber extracted from woodland. The types of machinery demonstrated were: agri tractor and 3-point linkage winch, log chute (which was constructed by students at Coed Tyllwyd, Llanfarian), firewood processor, log chute, chainsaw mill and Wood Mizer.

Discussions also took place on woodland management techniques, felling licences and safety aspects.

<b>'Working Your Woods' Demonstration - March 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. of attendees	21	<b>Total cost to Tir Coed = £1,383-91</b>
No. contractors supported	7	
No. demonstrations	6	
No agencies involved	3	
No. private woodland sites visited	1	
<i>Outcomes: majority of respondents rated organisation, content and information as "excellent" or "very good". Event aimed at small woodland &amp; farm woodland owners to show ways of adding value &amp; potential markets. Log Chute was constructed for the event and is now available to hire from Tir Coed.</i>		

*Promoting Health and Wellbeing*

**2.3 Projects Relating to Health**

**Lantern Making with Gorwelion (Mental Health Group)**

A local community artist worked with clients at Gorwelion (a mental health unit in Aberystwyth) on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December making festive lantern out of willow. The last session included a lantern procession in a local woodland and Christmas carols sung by children from a local primary school.

<b>Lantern Making with Gorwelion</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. training sessions/courses	3	£207
No. benefiting from woodland/craft as part of health/rehab programme	6	
No. woodland visits	1	
<i>Outcomes: Working with people suffering from mental health problems, creating lanterns and cumulating in a Christmas lantern procession in local woods. Practical, craft skills improved and experience of being in a woodland environment, increased skills and self-confidence.</i>		

*Alleviating Social Exclusion and Deprivation*

**2.4 Projects Involving Young People**

**Bench-making and Carving**

In partnership with Prince's Trust Cymru, two local crafts people from Graybeard's Wood near New Quay worked with young people that attend the Youth Drop-in Centre in Aberaeron to create benches for their centre. Benches were created out of Welsh oak and carved and decorated before being put in place.

<b>Bench-making project - Aberaeron Youth Drop-in Centre - 8-12th November</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. young people benefiting	8	<b>Total cost to Tir Coed £574.50</b>
No. agencies involved	2	
<i>Outcomes: Increased awareness of local environment, woodwork skills improved. Team and confidence building. Two benches produced by young people and will be permanent fixture at the Drop-in Centre</i>		

**Site Preparation and Tree Planting**

At Clynfyw Countryside Centre in north Pembrokeshire a team of Prince's Trust clients cleared and prepared land for tree planting (below). The young people are part of the 'Team 100' programme which is linked to Jobcentre Plus that aims to develop skills to increase people's chances of finding employment.

<b>Site preparation - 20-22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. of attendees	8	£55.56 for equipment, volunteer time from PT clients
No. unemployed given support	6	
No. women assisted/benefiting	4	
<i>Outcomes: partnership project with Prince's Trust Team 100 with Jobcentre Plus clients, giving young people work opportunities and increased personal development. 2ha of land was cleared and prepared for planting</i>		

### Tree Planting Sessions (Pembrokeshire)

After the site had been prepared by the Prince's Trust team, two local schools (Trewen and Capel Iwan in Carmarthenshire) spent a day at Clynfyw taking part in creating a new area of woodland. They learnt how to plant and care for trees, as well as gaining information about different species and the importance of trees to people and the environment.

<b>Tree Planting with local Schools 26<sup>th</sup> January &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No. young people benefiting	72	£90.00 – 50% of transport costs.
No. agencies involved	1	
No partnerships formed with other organisations	3	
Private woodland sites used	1	
<i>Outcomes: Environmental awareness increased and incorporated in to classroom education.</i>		

### Tree Planting Sessions (North Ceredigion)

Tree planting sessions were also organised with three primary schools in north Ceredigion. This took place at the Hafod Estate and as well as planting trees, the sessions incorporated a guided walk around the Hafod Estate to see the mature woodland, wildlife and to learn about the history of the landscape.

<b>Tree Planting with schools - March 21, 22, 23</b>	<b>Total Outputs Oct-March '05</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
No young people benefiting	62	£40.00 - 50% of transport
No contractors supported	1	
No agencies involved	1	
No partnerships formed with other organisations	1	
Private woodland sites used	1	
FC woodland sites used	1	
<i>Outcomes: Partnership project with Hafod trust and FC Wales. Increased awareness of the value of trees to the environment. Each child had hands-on experience of planting a tree as well as care &amp; maintenance involved.</i>		

## Motorbiking in the Woods

In the past, Tir Coed has been heavily involved in both the development and delivery of the *Motorbiking in the Woods* project. Our assistance has now reduced but we continue to assist the project financially. The project has now been incorporated into the alternative curriculum programme run and managed by the Education Inclusion team.

Motorbiking in the Woods	Total Outputs Oct-March '05	Total Costs
No. young people benefiting	6	Total cost to Tir Coed = £2,199.59, other contributions from LINCS Ceredigion & Education Inclusion Unit
No. training courses	1	
No. part-time jobs created (formerly unemployed)	2	
Partnerships formed with groups/organisations	4	
No. people receiving training	6	
No. women assisted/benefiting	1	
No. agencies involved	4	
FC Woodland sites used	2	
<i>Outcomes: increased confidence and range of skill learnt as part of alternative curriculum. Improved behaviour of young people &amp; attendance at school encouraged.</i>		

## 2.5 Other Projects

Over the past six months we have supported a number of projects through our simple application process. These have included:

- Ysgol Gymraeg, Aberystwyth – Tree Planting, developing outdoor classroom/picnic area, 3 woodland visits, assistance making table, benches and stools. Total grant = £1,530.00
- Easter Woodland Celebration – 4-day woodland-based craft event (including 2 sessions in local schools) – making wooden instruments, willow weaving, story telling in round house etc. Total grant = £2,000

Total cost of 'other' projects = **£3530.00**

## **2.6 Applications under Consideration**

We have also received the following applications for assistance are currently being reviewed:

- Cyfle Newydd day Centre, Machynlleth – support workers training in woodland/craft skills  
Amount requested: £865.00
- Forestry Contracting Association – partnership funding for demonstration site at this years Royal Welsh Show  
Amount requested: £2,000.00
- ACTT – Partnership funding for West Wales Woodfair  
Amount requested: £1,000.00
- Mid Wales Youth Offending Team – funding for outdoor pursuits activities and equipment in FC woodlands  
Amount requested: £1,990.00
- Sound of Life Community Arts charity – making musical instruments out of locally grown timber with special needs groups  
Amount requested: £840.00

Total projects under consideration = **£6,695.00**

### **3. Publicity**

The following publicity and promotional activities have taken place over the last six months:

- Press releases covering our events published in local papers
- Key events being advertised locally
- Attended series of meetings with 'new' organisations
- Radio coverage for Timber Extraction demonstration and Tree Planting sessions
- Attending monthly Forestry Commission Social Team meetings

### **4. Staff Development**

Over the last six months staff have received the following training:

- First Aid (Vic Williams and Gwyneth Davies)
- Intermediate Level Welsh classes (Vic Williams)
- IT courses in desk top publishing, Excel and emailing (Gwyneth Davies)

### **5. Planned Activities for 2005-06**

- Continued publicity drive with articles targeted at certain publications
- Range of networking meetings with key organisations
- Finalising key Tir Coed documents such as the Constitution, Articles and Memorandum etc.
- Review and update website
- Pursuit of core and project-based funding beyond 2006 (see below)
- Continue to expand geographical areas of assistance
- Further develop and publicise small grants scheme
- Facilitate projects that relate to the three strands of our strategy and business plan
- Working closely with key organisations in rural parts of Wales such as Menter groups and Communities First partnerships

## **6. Future Funding**

In December 2004 Green and Gold Environmental Projects Agency were selected to seek additional funds for Tir Coed. In January, we had our first session with the fundraisers that involved identifying our 'unique selling point' and our key priorities for the next few years. This formed the basis of our 'case for support' that will be used for future funding applications. Green and Gold are currently seeking funds for two small projects that we hope will take place this summer and are also working on the more difficult task of securing core funding post 2006 when our current funding runs out.

## 7 Monitoring

### 7.1 Financial

The table below indicates our spending to date for this financial year, broken down by theme as detailed in our Business Plan.

	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Q4</b>	<b>Total Expenditure 04/05</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Budget for 04/05</b>	<b>Progress against 04/05 budget</b>
1	Staff & Business Costs	£7603.16	£5986.76	£3412.95	£47434.12	£64,436.99	<b>£9,559.83</b>	<b>110,000.00</b>	<b>72%</b>
2	Allev. Social Exclusion	£1895.63	£2974.96	£584.50	£50.00	£5,505.09			
3	Health & Well Being	£439.00	£1978.00	£302.00	£207.80	£2,926.80			
4	Rural Regeneration	£1035.25	£414.00	£3339.80	£5186.68	£9,975.73			
5	Grant Projects	£1890.00	£599.89	£1445.00	£2000.00	£5,934.89			
<b>Total</b>						<b>£88,779.50</b>			

## 7.2 Outputs

The table below gives an indication of the type and number of outputs our activities have produced over the year in total. For a definition of how these outputs are calculated, please see appendix below.

<b>Tir Coed Overall Outputs April '04 - March '05</b>	
<b>Output</b>	<b>Total '03-'04</b>
No. P/T jobs created (formerly unemployed)	2
No. self employed assisted	43
No. contractors supported	24
No. unemployed given support	36
No. training courses/sessions	14
No. people receiving training	102
No. trainees obtaining qualification	23
No. young people benefiting	234
No. women assisted/benefiting	31
No. benefiting from woodland/craft as part of health/rehab programme	26
No. vol/community organisations supported	11
No. people consulted	222
No. demonstrations	12
No. health promotion events	1
No. arts events	1
No. events organised	9
No. attendees	281
No. agencies involved	25
No. partnerships formed with other organisations	34
FC Woodland sites used	10
Private Woodland sites used	5

## Appendix - Output Definitions

<b>Output</b>	<b>Definition</b>
No. P/T jobs created (formerly unemployed)	<i>6 hours (one day) per week</i>
No. self employed assisted	<i>Assistance through subsidised training &amp; information, sub-contracting for events etc, free publicity/opportunity to sell products.</i>
No. contractors supported	<i>As above, but specifically contractors already working in forestry.</i>
No. unemployed given support	<i>Support through heavily subsidised or free training</i>
No. training courses/sessions	<i>Courses vary in length, level, subject and attendance</i>
No. people receiving training	<i>Total no. of attendees on all courses (may be same on more than one course)</i>
No. trainees obtaining qualification	<i>Some courses have qualification attached e.g. NTPC certificate</i>
No. young people benefiting	<i>No. young people directly involved in one of our initiatives</i>
No. women assisted/benefiting	<i>No. women directly involved in one of our initiatives</i>
No. benefiting from woodland/craft as part of health/rehab programme	<i>No. people suffering from health-related conditions that are involved in woodland-related projects as part of treatment</i>
No. vol/community organisations supported	<i>Supported through facilitating activities for their members, working in partnership</i>
No. people consulted	<i>No. members of the community consulted as part of a study</i>
No. demonstrations	<i>No. demonstrations facilitated e.g. timber conversion</i>
No. health promotion events	<i>Events promoting woodlands as facility for improving health</i>
No. arts events	<i>No. arts events either held in woodland or with woodland theme</i>
No. events organised	<i>Total number of events organised over year - usually 1 full or half day, does not include training</i>
No. attendees	<i>Total number of participants at all events (may be same at more than one event)</i>
No. agencies involved	<i>Partnerships formed with agencies not vol/comm groups</i>
No. partnerships formed with other organisations	<i>No. working partnerships formed with organisations as a result of projects</i>
No. certified woodlands	<i>No. woodlands that are certified as a result of encouragement/support by Tir Coed</i>
FC Woodland sites used	<i>No. Assembly woodland sites used for activities</i>
Private Woodland sites used	<i>No. private woodland sites used for activities</i>
No. woodlands visited	<i>No. site visits made as part of events/project</i>